



City of LaVerkin

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LAVERKIN CITY WATER BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 3:00 p.m.

435 North Main Street, LaVerkin, UT

Present: Richard Prince, John Valenti, Alan Olsen, Richard Hirschi, Derek Imlay, Kelly Wilson and Troylinn Benson.

Kyle Gubler was excused.

I. Call to Order by Mayor Richard Hirschi at 3:01pm.

II. Approval of Minutes: February 27, 2019 minutes.

Motion was made by Richard Hirschi to approve the February 27, 2019 minutes, second by Derek Imlay. Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes, Hirschi-yes, Prince-yes, Olsen-yes, Wilson-yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Reports:

A. Water Contracts:

Derek passed out a list of people interested in selling their water shares and a list of the people with delinquent accounts. The Attorney will be sending a letter to the delinquent shareholders letting them know the City will begin the process of taking the water shares back if the bill is not paid.

B. Culinary Water Management update

Derek reported the Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) has raised the culinary water rate for the City. We currently pay for 4.425 million gallons of water and any time we go over we pay the current water rate for the overage. This is where the cost increase comes in. The increase is \$.10 per thousand gallons and will continue to increase by \$.10 per thousand gallons each year until the rate is \$3.00 per thousand gallons. The current rate is \$1.76 per thousand gallons.

This is the first year we have gone over the allotted amount and it has cost the City about \$6,000. The upper tank is sectioned off for the two hotels, Sunset View Estates and Zion View Estates. The busier the hotels get, the more water we use. We could go offline with the upper tank and just use Toquerville Springs and Ash Creek Springs but that would reduce the water pressure quite substantially in those areas.

He has been tracking the water usage and overage amount for budget reasons and will bring that information to the next Water Board meeting. The hotels do pay a higher water rate than residents because of the meter size.

When Interstate Rock moves forward with the Cottonwood Hollow subdivision it will make the water usage even higher because that area will need to come off the upper tank as well. To separate them and put some of the subdivisions/hotels on the other water source would create such a difference in water pressure that it would create another problem. He does not know what the answer is. He will continue to come up with ideas to try and fix the situation. At some point in time we will either need to adjust the budget to purchase additional water or install a booster station. The City already has a pump station for parts of Hillside Terrace and Sunset View

Estates to help with the pressure issue in that area. It costs about \$500 per month to operate that station.

In the Master Water Plan, it lists a pipeline across the highway just above the LaQuinta Hotel, if that could be installed, we could tie in and combine both sources. When that property is developed, hopefully the City will be in the position to partner with the developer to install that line.

C. Irrigation Water Management update

Derek reported the irrigation pressure has been greatly reduced the last three weeks. The WCWCD has been taking more water out of the Virgin River for the Hydro Plant behind Walmart. When the CFS is up, the District will take all the water they can for the Plant. The Hydro Plant usually comes offline the same time our irrigation water goes back into the system so it's not an issue. This has been a wet winter, so they are running longer. Derek did receive a call yesterday from the District notifying the City the CFS's have dropped so they have reduced to half capacity. Our irrigation pressure should be back up and at full pressure by this weekend.

Richard Prince asked what right the District had to do that.

Derek replied he is not sure. La Verkin City has the ability to receive water but because we own water rights there is not a contract with the District that ensures La Verkin receives a specific amount of pressure.

Hurricane had the same issue, but they have booster pumps to get the water into their detention basin.

Derek and Kyle have a meeting with Ron Thompson, Zach Renstrom, and Dave Jessop, all from WCWCD, to discuss this problem.

The City may want to install a booster station to prevent this situation from happening again. He will be discussing that option during the meeting as well.

Mayor Hirschi reported Mayor Bramall from Hurricane told him the District helped Hurricane with their booster station.

There was a discussion on irrigation water pressure around the City and the cost of water shares.

Derek clarified misinformation posted on the La Verkin Facebook page that is not sponsored by the City. Someone posted a detention basin could be installed for one million dollars, Derek clarified 10 years ago when he looked into the possibility of putting a detention basin at the top of 300 South, the price tag was 3 million dollars and that doesn't include a pump to get the water there.

There was a discussion on the feasibility of a settling pond in La Verkin City and possible locations.

D. Water Task Force meeting update-Kelly Wilson

Kelly reported he did attend the meeting and SB52 was not on the agenda. He asked them during the "Other Items" section of the meeting when they would be discussing SB52 with the Task Force. One of the Board members said they had determined to put a committee together to go over it and then come back to the Task Force with a recommendation. They in turn would debate it and take it to the State Legislature as a recommendation.

One of them asked Kelly if he would be on the committee and he said yes. At the end of the meeting he spoke with the Chairman of the Board and told him Hurricane City and Beaver City would also be happy to be on the committee.

This bill will affect us if they move forward with the legislation the way it is written. He thinks they understand the issue we would have because Senator Anderegg, who sponsored the bill, realized trying to meter Virgin River water to the end user would be very difficult. It would be difficult to even find a meter that could handle the water. Some of the bigger meters could handle the water but there is question on those at how accurate they are.

The meter Weber Basin is installing, (the recommended meter), is not a warranted meter if it is not culinary grade water. The manufacturer did give Weber Basin an exception for a warranty if they worked within certain parameters. We gave the manufacturer our information and they gave us more restrictive parameters, restrictive enough that they essentially would not warranty the meter. Other manufactures he spoke with told him up front they would not warranty the meter. The sand in the water is so abrasive it wears the equipment out.

Richard Prince asked when the committee would be meeting.

Kelly replied he doesn't have that information. He is not even sure if he is on the committee. The Water Task Force needs to make a recommendation to the Legislature on that piece of legislation as to what they are going to do.

He did volunteer to be on the committee and spoke with Ed Bowler, who is a member of the Task Force Board and said he would push for Kelly to be on the committee.

During the water meeting in January, Weber Basin did a presentation on how metering was allowing them to conserve water. The meter is a radio read meter and reports the usage so they can contact the high users and tell them to cut back. They reported it was working out very well for them, but they didn't realize they did not have a warranty until Kelly read the warranty to them.

Weber Basin has clean water, even in flood stage. It is like Toquerville's water. The WCWCD runs the irrigation system in Toquerville and they installed these same meters there. That water comes right out of the spring and goes into a pond and then feeds the town. The only contamination they get is dirt blowing into the pond.

Richard Prince reported Toquerville is on water restrictions and can only water certain days of the week. His son struggled just to keep his lawn alive.

Kelly continued that he is hopeful they put him on the committee so he can voice his concerns. It would be detrimental for the small communities if they are forced to install water meters on the secondary water system. It would cost La Verkin City 2-4 million dollars and would be very time consuming.

He can understand the reasoning for wanting this bill and water conservation is an important thing, but right now, until they develop a meter to handle the water, it doesn't make sense.

Hurricane tried to meter their big water users and the meters they tried lasted 1-2 years before they needed to be rebuilt or replaced.

IV. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action to recommend an increase to the culinary water rates to offset the Washington County Water Conservancy's rate increase.

This item was discussed during the Culinary Water Management update.

Kelly mentioned there will already be a 2% increase in November.

This item needs to be watched so we don't get the City further behind. The water rate increase that passed this past fall was to help catch back up.

Derek said Ron Thompson told him the goal is to be at \$3.00 per thousand gallons.

This item will be on the next agenda.

V. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

No comments were made.

VI. Board Member Concerns:

Mayor Hirschi brought up the people that water continually. The City is not over the allotted amount, but we do need to watch it.

Kelly pointed out that is the exact reason the State wants to meter irrigation water. Right now, it is not an issue for La Verkin City, but it will be in the future. We did have a good year this year and our water rights on the River are very good. So we would be one of the last ones cut off.

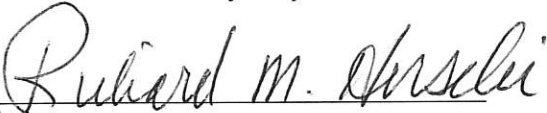
There was a discussion on getting secondary water from the Anderson Junction dam if that is built. La Verkin cannot give up their water rights in return for that ability.

VII. Adjourn:

Motion was made by Mayor Richard Hirschi to adjourn, second by Alan Olsen.

Valenti-yes, Imlay-yes, Hirschi-yes, Prince-yes, Olsen-yes, Wilson-yes. Motion carried at 3:40pm.

Minutes were taken by Troylinn Benson and Christy Ballard.


Chairman